

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6254

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5015

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PEPR UNGA PO PT

SUBJ: FRETILIN CAMPAIGN ON EAST TIMOR QUESTION

REF: (A) JAKARTA 8977 (NOTAL), (B) LISBON 4404 (NOTAL),
(C) BISSAU 781 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FRETILIN CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ROQUES RODRIGUES CONFIRMED THAT FRETITLIN HAS BEGUN A CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE OPINION IN PREPARATION FOR A RENEWED DISCUSSION OF THE EAST TIMOR ISSUE AT UNGA (REFTEL A). END SUMMARY.

2. ROQUES RODRIGUES, ROVING "AMBASSADOR" AND MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF FRETILIN (FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF
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EAST TIMOR), CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF JULY 6 THAT FRETILIN HAD BEGUN EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE OPINION IN PREPARATION FOR UNGA, AND DESCRIBED FRETILIN'S UPCOMING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

3. RODRIGUES'S TRAVEL: RODRIGUES IS MEETING WITH GROUPS IN LISBON WHICH SUPPORT FRETILIN, BUT DENIED THAT HE

WILL HAVE ANY MEETINGS WITH GOP OFFICIALS (REFTEL C). AFTER LISBON, RODRIGUES WILL TRAVEL TO LUANDA FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER LOPO DO NASCIMENTO, AND THEN TO CUBA TO ATTEND THE HAVANA YOUTH FESTIVAL (BY CUBAN INVITATION), AND, HE SAID, TO MEET WITH CASTRO. RODRIGUES WILL WIND UP IN NEW YORK TO ASSIST FRETILIN'S PREPARATION FOR UNGA. RODRIGUES SAID HE HAD POSTPONED A TRIP TO ALGERIA, WHERE HE WAS TO OPEN A FRETILIN DIPLOMATIC OFFICE WITH ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA AND PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE.

4. OTHER FRETILIN TRAVEL: RODRIGES STATED THAT RAMOS HORTA, FRETILIN "AMBASSADOR" AND "REPRESENTATIVE" TO THE UNITED NATIONS WILL VISIT THE NETHERLANDS FOR TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND LONDON FOR A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAVID OWEN IN JULY AND AUGUST.

5. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DOUBTFUL: RODRIGUES SAID HE IS NOT SURE THAT FRETILIN WILL BE ABLE TO GENERATE FURTHER SUPPORT IN UNGA FOR ITS POSITION AND SAID THEY HAD NOT YET DECIDED TO PUSH FOR SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE TIMOR ISSUE.

6. FRETILIN HARD LINE: ACCORDING TO RODRIGUES, FRETILIN HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE INDONESIAN'S OFFER TO NEGOTIATE THE TIMOR ISSUE. THE GOI OFFER WAS "SUSPICIOUS" AND LACKED EVIDENCE OF GOOD WILL. FRETILIN WILL PURSUE
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GUERRILLA WAR AND EXPECTS A PROLONGED STRUGGLE. AS OTHER FRETILIN OFFICIALS HAVE DONE, RODIGUES DENIED THAT THEY RECEIVE OUTSIDE SUPPORT FROM ANY COUNTRY, AND INSTEAD, RELY ON ARMS AND AMMUNITION CAPTURED FROM THE INDONESIANS. HE REITERATED THE STANDARD BYT UNSUBSTANTIATED FRETILIN ACCUSATION THAT THE GOI IS USING AMERICAN MANUFACTURED WEAPONRY AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR.

7. COMMENT: RODRIGUES'S DOUBTS ABOUT FRETILIN'S ABILITY TO GENERATE ADDITIONAL UN SUPPORT FOLLOW EMBASSY JAKARTA'S COMMENT (REFTEL A) ABOUT FRETILIN'S DETERIORATING POSITION INSIDE TIMOR. HOWEVER, THE CUBAN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE HAVANA YOUTH FESTIVAL AND MEET WITH CASTRO--IF TRUE--INDICATE THAT FORMERLY WEAK CUBAN-FRETILIN TIES ARE BEING STRENGTHENED.
BLOOMFIELD

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